



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN LISTED ON ‘AMERICA’S MOST WANTED’ SENTENCED FOR BANK FRAUD, ID THEFT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a man formerly listed on “America’s Most Wanted” was sentenced in federal court today for bank fraud and identity theft.

John Evan Mizic, 48, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to three years and five months in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 13, 2004, **Mizic** pleaded guilty to defrauding Bank Midwest by generating counterfeit checks and depositing them into an account under the stolen identity of another person. **Mizic** admitted that he would withdraw the funds before they were detected. The bank fraud took place between Feb. 18 and March 28, 2003.

Mizic was originally arrested at the Residence Inn Marriott Hotel, located in Independence, Mo., on May 21, 2004.

Upon receiving consent to search his hotel room, law enforcement officers recovered computer equipment used to make the counterfeit checks. They also discovered a variety of counterfeit checks and counterfeit forms of identification, including birth certificates, marriage licenses and employment records.

During the investigation, law enforcement officers discovered that **Mizic** had opened a checking account under a false name on Feb. 18, 2003. Subsequently, **Mizic** began making deposits into the account. He cashed a total of 18 fraudulent checks at 14 Kansas City metropolitan banks. The counterfeit checks were later returned and totaled \$25,632.

Mizic was featured on the television show “America’s Most Wanted” and listed on the show’s Web site.

Mizie was originally charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on May 27, 2004, in Kansas City. The criminal complaint was later replaced with an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on July 7, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the United States Postal Inspectors.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow